

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01969 282124Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01 SY-05
SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 /051 W
-----098113 282130Z /73/15
O 280312Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6435

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1969

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR, PINT, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF BRUTALITY CONCERNING ARTHUR CHARITON

REFS: (A) STATE 107330, (B) MANAGUA 1625, (C) MANAGUA 1560,
(D) STATE 85772, (E) STATE 85773, (F) MANAGUA 1537,
(G) MANAGUA 1525, (H) MANAGUA 1524 (I) STATE 83809

1. REFTEL C DESCRIBED STEPS TAKEN ON APRIL 4 TO INFORM CHARITON IN ACCORD WITH DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY. DURING AND AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S READING OF THE STATEMENT TRANSMITTING THOSE INSTRUCTIONS (REPORTED IN PARA 2 AND 3 REFTEL C), CHARITON SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY. HE DECLARED THAT HE WOULD RESIST BEING REMOVED PHYSICALLY AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO BE DRAGGED OUT. HE WAS TOLD THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. CHARITON WAS SEATED TO THE LEFT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S DESK DURING THE READING OF THE STATEMENT. THE AMBASSADOR WAS STANDING INFRONT OF THAT DESK, MORE OR LESS IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM. THREE EMBOFFS INCLUDING FEMALE VICECONSUL, AND THE NCOIC WERE ALSO PRESENT IN THE ROOM DURING THE READING OF THE STATEMENT. THE DOORS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE WERE OPEN AND THE DCM AND TWO OTHER MARINES WERE JUST OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, ALONG WITH TWO AMERICAN SECRETARIES, (WERE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01969 282124Z

ALSO IN THAT AREA JUST OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.)

2. AFTER THE STATEMENT WAS READ AND HE HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THE EMBASSY ALIVE VOLUNTARILY, CHARITON WAS TOLD THAT HIS LAWYER WOULD BE INFORMED OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY. THE NCOIC APPROACHED CHARITON AND POLITELY ASKED HIM TO LEAVE. HE GRASPED HIM GENTLY

BY THE ELBOW. CHARITON BEGAN STRUGGLING AND ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE FROM THE NCOIC'S GRASP. HE, CHARITON ROSE AND BACKED INTO AN EMB-OFF WHO HAD BEEN STANDING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF CHARITON'S CHAIR. CHARITON THEN LUNGED TOWARD A PAIR OF SCISSORS ON THE AMBASSADOR'S DESK. WHILE THE EMBOFF BEHIND CHARITON SOUGHT TO BLOCK HIS MOVEMENT TOWARD THE DESK, THE VICE CONSUL SNATCHED THEM FROM THE DESK. (ON APRIL 27, CHARITON CONFIRMED TO CONSUL THAT HE HAD REACHED FOR SCISSORS TO DO HARM TO HIMSELF.)

3. THE OTHER MARINES QUICKLY ENTERED THE ROOM AND SEIZED CHARITON'S ARMS TO FURTHER RESTRAIN HIM AND LEAD HIM TOWARD THE DOOR. CHARITON CONTINUED TO RESIST AND STRUGGLED AND KICKED VIOLENTLY TO ESCAPE FROM THE GRASP OF THE THREE MARINES AND THE EMBOFF BEHIND HIM. IN ORDER TO REMOVE HIM AND PREVENT HIM FROM DOING HARM TO HIMSELF AND OTHERS IN HIS STRUGGLE, IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR TWO OTHER EMBOFFS TO ASSIST IN LIFTING CHARITON UP BODILY AND CARRYING HIM FROM THE OFFICE, OUT OF THE CHANCERY AND INTO A WAITING EMBASSY CAR. CHARITON STRUGGLED AS BEST HE COULD AND KEPT SHOUTING: "YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE; YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME," OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT. THROUGHOUT, THOSE RESTRAINING CHARITON HELD HIS ARMS PRESSED CLOSELY TO HIS SIDES AND HELD HIS LEGS TOGETHER AT KNEE AND ANKLE.

4. ONCE IN THE CAR, MARINES SAT ON EITHER SIDE OF CHARITON, WHO CONTINUED TO RESIST, IN THE REAR SEAT AND SOUGHT TO RES-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAGU 01969 282124Z

STRAIN HIS MOVEMENT BY HOLDING HIM TIGHTLY. EMBOFF AND ANOTHER MARINE WERE IN THE FRONT SEAT. EMBOFF TRIED TO CALM CHARITON BY URGING HIM NOT TO DESPAIR. WHEN THE CAR REACHED THE GATE AT THE REAR OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND WHERE THE POLICE WERE WAITING, CHARITON BECAME FRANTIC AND RESISTED MORE VIOLENTLY THAN EVER. HE TRIED HIS BEST TO PREVENT HIS REMOVAL FROM THE CAR BY TWISTING, TURNING AND PUTTING ONE LEG BETWEEN THE FRONT SEAT AND THE FRAME OF THE OPEN DOOR AND BY OTHERWISE OBSTRUCTING EFFORTS TO REMOVE HIM. IN ORDER TO REMOVE HIM, IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR THE MARINES TO HOLD HIM AS SECURELY AS POSSIBLE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO EXTRICATE HIS LEG FROM THE CREVICE INTO WHICH HE HAD JAMMED IT.

5. ONCE CHARITON HAD BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE CAR, HE WAS CARRIED IN A SIMILAR MANNER AS BEFORE, KICKING AND STRUGGLING VIOLENTLY, TO THE NEARBY POLICE WHO CARRIED HIM TO THEIR WAITING CARRY-ALL.

6. AT NO TIME WHILE HE WAS ON EMBASSY PROPERTY DID ANYONE STRIKE OR GOUGE CHARITON. NO EMBOFF SAW THE POLICE MISTREAT HIM. EMBOFFS WHO FOLLOWED CLOSELY BEHIND POLICE CAR TO MILITARY HOSPITAL DID NOT WITNESS ANY MISTREATMENT OF CHARITON EN ROUTE. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE HOSPITAL, CHARITON, WHILE STILL BEING HELD, WALKED QUIETLY

INTO THE HOSPITAL. (THE ENTIRE EPISODE, BETWEEN CHARITON'S ARRIVAL IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE AND HIS DELIVERY TO THE HOSPITAL THREE KILOMETERS AWAY, LASTED LESS THAN 25 MINUTES.)

7. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT CHARITON MAY HAVE RECEIVED BRUISES DURING HIS STRUGGLE TO RESIST. PRACTICALLY EVERYONE PHYSICALLY INVOLVED IN HIS REMOVAL FROM THE EMBASSY RECEIVED BRUISES AND SCRATCHES FROM THE VIOLENTLY STRUGGLING CHARITON. IT IS, MOREOVER, QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS SCRATCHED PARTICULARLY AS HE FOUGHT AGAINST BEING REMOVED FROM THE CAR.

8. WE HAD ANTICIPATED THE NECESSITY TO REMOVE CHARITON BY FORCE, BECAUSE HE HAD EARLIER TOLD US HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE VOLUNTARILY (REFTELS F, G, AND H). WE THEREFORE REHEARSED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MANAGU 01969 282124Z

THE CONFRONTATION WITH CHARITON AND HIS REMOVAL SHORTLY BEFORE THE ACTUAL INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. WE SOUGHT TO ANTICIPATE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN SO AS TO PREVENT INJURY TO CHARITON OR OTHERS. THE MARINES WERE INSTRUCTED TO USE ONLY THE MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK. DURING THE REHEARSAL, AN EMBOFF PLAYED THE ROLE OF CHARITON, RESISTED BEING REMOVED, STRUGGLED AND SHOUTED. THE MARINES RESTRAINED HIM AND HAD TO CARRY HIM TO THE VEHICLE AND DRAG HIM FROM IT AT THE EXIT. EMBOFF SUFFERED SOME BRUISES AND SORE LIMBS FROM THE EXPERIENCE, ALTHOUGH EMBOFF'S STRUGGLES WERE NOT NEARLY AS VIOLENT AS THOSE OF CHARITON.

9. ON APRIL 7, EMBASSY REGISTERED NURSE VISITED CHARITON IN HOSPITAL. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD HER THAT DURING HIS REMOVAL FROM EMBASSY HE HAD SUFFERED BRUISES ON ARMS (WHICH HE SHOWED HER), LEGS, NECK AND SHOULDERS. HE ALSO SHOWED HER A SINGLE SCRATCH ON RIGHT LEG. HE COMPLAINED OF MUSCLE SORENESS AND SOME PAIN. SHE DESCRIBED THE SCRATCH AS MINOR AND THE BRUISES AS SMALL. ON APRIL 11, CHARITON TOLD ANOTHER VISITING EMBOFF (WHO HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN CHARITON'S EJECTION FROM THE EMBASSY) THAT HE HAD SUFFERED BRUISES DURING THE EJECTION. CHARITON SHOWED EMBOFF A BRUISE ON HIS RIGHT LEG AND MENTIONED BRUISES ON HIS SHOULDERS. CHARITON SHOWED EMBOFF SMALL SCRATCH ON A FINGER OF HIS RIGHT HAND AS WELL. HE DID NOT MENTION ANY OTHER INJURIES.

10. SUMMING UP, IN CARRYING OUT THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE GAVE CHARITON THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY AND QUIETLY. HE REFUSED TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PHYSICALLY RESIST BEING EXPELLED FROM THE EMBASSY AND, INDEED, HE DID SO
RESIST. WE USED THE MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY AND REASONABLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS REMOVAL. IT WAS A MOST UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE FOR ALL CONCERNED.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 MANAGU 01969 282124Z

SOLAUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, ALLEGATIONS, ATROCITIES, EMBASSIES, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU01969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780187-0305, D780181-0744
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978045/aaaaadxo.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e8112ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107330, 78 MANAGUA 1625, 78 MANAGUA 1560, 78 STATE 85772, 78 STATE 85773, 78 MANAGUA 1537
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2947648
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF BRUTALITY CONCERNING ARTHUR CHARITON
TAGS: CARR, PINT, SHUM, NU, US, (CHARITON, ARTHUR HARRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e8112ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014